



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **CMAQ Project Selection Committee** **February 28, 2008** **Meeting Agreements**

### **1.0 Call to Order and Introductions**

Ross Patronsky called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

### **2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### **3.0 FY 2009 CMAQ Program**

#### **3.1 FY 2008 Proposal Summary**

Mr. Patronsky reviewed the summary that was sent out with the meeting materials. He noted that there are, at current count 184 proposals seeking \$540 million in CMAQ funds. Last year there were 155 proposals seeking \$359 million in CMAQ funds. He said he would send the current program development schedule to the Committee.

Mr. Mastny suggested showing congestion reduction benefits for projects as well as air quality benefits. Mr. Pitstick agreed with the suggestion, noting that the issue had been raised before. He advocated using alternate measures for "tie breaking" between proposals that are otherwise very similar. Mr. Patronsky replied that the possibility has been investigated, and that intersection proposals in particular can have a delay estimate readily produced. For other types of proposals it would be more difficult to estimate delay reduction, and some proposals (e.g., diesel emission reductions) involve no delay reduction.

#### **3.2 FY 2008 Program Mark**

Mr. Patronsky reviewed the summary that was distributed prior to the meeting. He noted that the total available for CMAQ programming for FY 2009 was slightly less than \$40 million. Several changes and assumptions affected the amount available:

- IDOT has reduced the total rescissions against CMAQ funds by \$3.7 million.
- \$25.5 million in "obligation limitation" for FY 2006 and FY 2007 is no longer being counted in IDOT calculations. Since rescissions reduce the obligation limitation, this change is appropriate.
- \$30 million has been estimated for rescissions. \$15 million is estimated for FY 2008, of which approximately \$9 million will be offset by the obligation limitation. \$24 million is estimated for FY 2009, which was part of the SAFTEA-LU authorization itself.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to remove the \$24 million FY 2009 rescission from the calculations. Mr. DiPalma warned that, if future rescissions result in projects being cancelled, sponsors could be required to refund federal funds that had been spent.

#### **4.0 Project Monitoring**

##### **5.1. FY 2007 Project Obligation Status**

Ms. Fifer told the Committee that 17 FY 2007 projects had still not taken steps to obligate their funds, although all FY 2007 projects had been programmed in phases so that their initial phase should have been obligated within the fiscal year ending last September. A letter will be sent to these sponsors seeking an explanation as to the reason for the delay. The Committee did not think it was time to consider withdrawing funds from these projects yet, but indicated the letter should state the urgency of the request.

##### **5.2. FY 2006 and Earlier Projects by Large Implementers**

Ms. Fifer explained that information was still expected from some sponsors.

##### **5.3. Use of FY 2008 State Appropriation**

Mr. Patronsky directed the Committee's attention to the e-mail from Shirley Cowles in IDOT's Springfield office. IDOT had appropriated a larger than normal amount for the CMAQ program in State FY 2007. This was done because an unusually large amount was programmed in FY 2006, and obligations from these were expected to begin in 2007. In addition, the hope was that projects that had been lagging in their obligations would begin to catch up.

Mr. Patronsky continued that, although the unused appropriation would be rolled over into State FY 2009, the inability to use it in a timely manner might affect future appropriations and the region's ability to catch up on obligating projects.

#### **5.0 2007 Energy Bill (HR 6)**

The impact of this legislation on CMAQ programming and obligations was discussed. The Committee adopted the staff recommendation to not increase the percentage of federal funding for obligations of projects previously programmed.

The Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of programming FY 2009 projects at a federal share higher than 80%. In general, funding at a federal share higher than 80% was not supported.

However, there are ongoing projects funded at a 100% federal share (Pace vanpool program and regional ridesharing initiatives), and Committee members noted FY 2009 proposals that may have difficulty proceeding without a higher federal share – in particular, a proposal to retrofit school buses may require a higher federal share, since school districts are historically unable to provide a local match.

In other cases, Committee members noted the inequity of programming a higher federal share to individual applicants simply because the sponsor had heard of the energy bill changes, when sponsors of other, comparable proposals had not heard of the changes.

The Committee instructed staff to contact sponsors requesting federal funding above 80%, advising them of the implications of the energy bill, and stating that sponsors should not expect 100% federal funding for most proposals.

The Committee agreed to retain the historical process for selecting projects for higher federal funding, or to consider proposals recommended by staff for such funding.

## **6.0 Project Changes**

- 4.1. IDOT – US 14/IL 43/Dempster St from Harlem Ave to Morton Grove Park District/Prairie View Dr and south to US 14/Caldwell Ave (TIP ID 02-08-0003)  
The Committee accepted the sponsor's withdrawal of the project.
- 4.2. Naperville – Naper Blvd at Chicago Ave/Maple Ave Intersection Improvements (TIP ID 08-00-0065)  
The Committee accepted the sponsor's withdrawal of the project.
- 4.3. IEPA – Clean Air Public Information Campaign and Regional Carpool Radio Advertising (TIP ID 13-97-0002)  
The Committee approved the sponsor change for a portion of the project, transferring \$650,000 federal (\$650,000 total) to Pace for ridesharing activities
- 4.4. Riverdale – Ivanhoe Metra Station Kiss 'n Ride Facility (TIP ID 07-05-0004)  
The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$35,180 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$92,480 federal (\$115,600 total).
- 4.5. IDOT – IL 43/Waukegan Rd from Half Day Rd to Deerfield Rd (TIP ID 10-06-0004)  
The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$69,040 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$380,000 federal (\$502,209 total).
- 4.6. Wilmette – Green Bay Rd from Lake Ave to Wilmette Ave (TIP ID 02-05-0002)  
The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$766,010 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$1,845,062 federal (\$2,306,328 total).
- 4.7. Aurora – Galena Blv from Orchard Rd to Locust St (TIP ID 09-05-0001)  
Owing to the magnitude of the increase and the drop in project ranking, the Committee considered denying the cost increase request and allowing the sponsor to submit a late application for FY 2009 funding. However, upon review of the impact of the requirements for federal share specified in the energy bill, it became apparent that the only options available to the Committee were to approve the request or deny it and cancel the project. As a result, the Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$628,384 federal (\$785,480 total) federal for total CMAQ funding of \$1,151,104 federal (\$1,438,880 total).
- 4.8. Aurora – New York St from Farnsworth Ave to IL 31/Lake St (TIP ID 09-06-0065)  
Following the same discussion as for the previous request by Aurora, the Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$575,104 federal (\$718,880 total) for total CMAQ funding of \$873,194 federal (\$1,091,492 total).
- 4.9. Palos Park – 121st St and 80th Ave Pedestrian Path (TIP ID 06-04-0002)  
The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$12,840 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$81,600 federal (\$102,000 total).
- 4.10. Mundelein – Mundelein Bicycle Path connecting Noll, Hanrahan, Lions Field & Libertyville Twp (TIP ID 10-04-0002)  
The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$303,360 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$748,208 federal (\$935,260 total).
- 4.11. Villa Park – Roosevelt Road Sidewalk from Ardmore to Michigan (TIP ID 08-02-0008)

The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$146,153 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$701,600 federal (\$877,000 total).

- 4.12. Villa Park – South Villa Ave Sidewalk from Wildwood Ave to Park Blv (TIP ID 08-06-0004)

The Committee approved the cost increase in the amount of \$130,600 federal for total CMAQ funding of \$305,600 federal (\$382,000 total).

- 4.13. Clarendon Hills – Chicago Ave Sidewalk from Wilmette Ave to Oxford Ave (TIP ID 08-05-0001)

The Committee approved a scope change to permit use of the funds for another pedestrian project in the community, subject to a favorable emissions benefit analysis.

## **7.0 Post-Implementation Evaluation of Air Quality Benefits of CMAQ Projects**

The status of this UWP project was discussed. Mr. Buehler pointed out that FHWA has spent funds calibrating microsimulation models; further effort in this regard is not needed. Mr. Patronskey assured him that the scope of work will focus on measurement of actual changes in speed and delay. If there are insufficient “before” data for the traffic flow improvements or signal interconnects, then the scope will include collecting such data on soon to be completed projects.

## **8.0 Other Business**

The Committee discussed the need for more consistent representation of the Council of Mayors. The Planning Liaisons in attendance said they would discuss it with CMAP External Relations staff. Mr. Patronskey said he would also look into it.

Mr. Ferguson informed the Committee of an upcoming meeting of a working group of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force that is examining the methodologies used to analyze CMAQ bike and pedestrian facility projects. The meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the CMAP offices.

## **9.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **10.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting was left on call.

## **11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

*The above summary is based on staff meeting notes. Please send comments on or corrections to the information contained in this summary to Ross Patronskey at (312) 386-8796, [rpatronskey@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rpatronskey@cmap.illinois.gov), within one week of the submission date noted below.*

Summary submitted by Ross Patronskey April 4, 2008.